COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1119

Monday, *the* $\frac{\textit{24th July 1944}}{\textit{9th Karkadagam 1119}}$

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (SIR GEORGE BOAG, K. C. I. E., C. S. I.) in the Chair.

Messrs. K. M. Ibrahim, C. Kunhan Nambudiripad, K. Ashtamoorthi Nambudiripad and the Advocate-General were absent.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

Messrs. P. Sankaran Nambiar, Khan Sahib Muhammad Habi Buddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur, Thattil Kochuvareed and George Panikulam were sworn in.

OPENING SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

Hon'ble Members,

I bid you welcome to this Budget Session of the Legislative Council. We have a busy fortnight before us in which the principal duty which we shall be called upon to discharge will be the consideration of the demands for financial supply put forward by the Government in the Reserved and Transferred Departments. Hon'ble Members will have the opportunity of showing, both in the general discussion on the Budget and in the discussions on individual demands, what they think of the activities of the various departments and of the manner in which those activities are being carried on. I can give an assurance that any criticisms which Hon'ble Members level either against the policy of the Government or against the manner in which that policy is being executed will receive the most careful attention. I do not propose in this address to discuss the details of the Budget Estimates. The Finance Member later in today's proceedings will deal with these estimates in detail. I propose in the remarks which I shall now make rather to confine myself to a consideration of the effect which the war is having upon the economy of the State, to indicate how this impact is illustrated by the Budget figures, to consider a few of the more important measures for which financial provision is made, and finally to touch upon some of the problems connected with post-war reconstruction of the State's economy.

2. Before I proceed to these domestic concerns I shall, I think, do well to remind the House of the very great improvement in the war situation all over the world which has been brought about since I last addressed it seven months ago. The Russians, continuing their mighty blows at the German invaders during the winter, throughout the spring, and now into the summer, have practically thrown the Germans back over their frontiers and are within a measurable distance of the invasion of Germany itself. In Italy the last few weeks have seen the liberation of Rome and the steady advance along both coasts and through the mountains in the centre of Italy of American, British, Indian and Polish troops who are gradually driving the Germans northwards. In France we have seen a powerful British and American army landed in Normandy which has captured the important port of Cherbourg and is hammering at the strong German forces which are striving vainly to ward off the attack which grows ever stronger and stronger. So also in the war with Japan we have seen a determined attack on the north-east frontier of India, which at one time looked serious, thrown back with heavy losses. We have seen a force of American and Chinese troops in the north of Burma combine with that gallant force of Chindits to drive the Japanese from more than one of their strong positions. We have seen the Americans in the Pacific drawing tighter and closer the ring which encircles the Japanese fleets and armies. Everywhere the enemy is on the defensive ; and it has become obvious to all the world, not least to the enemy himself, that it is only a question of time before he is beaten to surrender.

3. Meanwhile, it is well for us to review from time to time the results of the impact of war conditions upon this State. There has first been a great demand for man power. From this State have gone something like 17,000 young men to join the fighting services. Many of them have been back on leave—some with great stories of their adventures at sea, in the air and

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